



## Legal Update

August 15, 2014

### An Act relative to certain judicial procedures in the superior court

#### Chapter 254 of the Acts of 2014

On August 6, 2014, Governor Patrick signed into law “*An Act relative to certain judicial procedures in the superior court.*” Key portions of the law are listed below:

##### Attorney/Party-Conducted Jury Voir Dire

- Adds to G.L. c. 234, § 28 that upon request, and in addition to a judge’s jury voir dire of the jury venire, the court shall allow a party’s attorney, or a party, if *pro se*, to conduct an oral examination of prospective jurors.
- Applies to criminal and civil trials in the Superior Court.
- Court may impose reasonable limitations as to questions and the time allotted.
- In criminal cases involving multiple defendants, the Commonwealth is entitled to the same amount of time as the total to which the defendants are entitled.
- Court may establish rules pertaining to the process of such jury voir dire.
- This provision becomes effective 150 days after the effective date of this Act.

A copy of Chapter 254 of the Acts of 2014 is attached.